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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,913	10/29/2003	Steven S. Johndreau	1006-001	9642
39174	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
CASTLE & GROSS LLP 11231 GOLD EXPRESS DRIVE SUITE 100 GOLD RIVER, CA 95670			RICCI, JOHN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3712	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/697,913

Applicant(s)

JOHNDREAU ET AL.

Examiner

John Ricci

Art Unit

3712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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Note that the reference 5,437,262 on the Information Disclosure Statement does not appear to be related to this invention and has not been considered.

\* \* \* \* \*

Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 1-17 in the reply filed on June 1, 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that searching the additional groups would not place an undue burden on the Office. This is not found persuasive because the additional groups would require substantial additional consideration.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 18-22 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 6/1/04.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claims 1-17 are allowed.

The prior art does not disclose a directing device for a ball launching machine, including a first member; a second member pivotally attached to the first member; a third member rotatably attached to the second member; a first actuator connected to the first and second members, for pivoting the second member relative to the first member; and a second actuator connected to the first and third members for rotating the third member relative to the second member.

Kovacs 5,125,653 shows a support including a first member 3, second member 23 pivotally connected to the first member, and third member 22 rotatably connected to the second member. An actuator 32, 33 is connected to the first and second members; an actuator 27, 30 is connected between the second and third members. However, there is no actuator between the first and third members.

Pierce 5,464,208 shows a first actuator 61 and second actuator 60 mounted on a first member (figure 6). The first actuator is for pivoting second member 28 (figure 4), and the second actuator is for rotating third member 14. But the third member is not rotatably mounted to the second member.

\* \* \* \* \*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

\* \* \* \* \*

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This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 18-22 to an invention non-elected with traverse in the reply filed on 6/1/04.

Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144).

Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

\* \* \* \* \*

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 703-308-4751

Fax: Use 703-872-9306 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

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Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

*Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.*

My supervisor is Derris Banks, 703-308-1745.

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

Visit our Web site at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).



**JOHN RICCI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3712**